

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain pending and under current examination. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-9 to more particularly define the scope of the invention.

In the Final Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,314,516 to Cagle et al. (“*Cagle*”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0013855 to Ishii et al. (“*Ishii*”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, and submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because, among other things, neither *Cagle* nor *Ishii*, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of Applicants’ claims.

Amended claim 1 recites a combination including, for example, “a method of setting up an Internet server ... wherein a connection setting processing procedure detects ... the *connection* setup information stored on the *locally installed* storage medium” (emphasis added). In the Office Action, the Examiner concedes that “the *Cagle* reference does not explicitly state detecting current setup information” (Office Action at p. 2). However, the Examiner asserts that “the *Ishii* reference teaches ... a setting processing procedure ... [that] detects a difference between the current setup information and the setup information stored on the storage medium” (Office Action at page 2). Even assuming this assertion is correct, *Ishii* fails to cure the defects of *Cagle*, because *Ishii* fails to disclose at least detecting of “connection setup information” that is stored on a “locally installed storage medium”.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Ishii does not teach detecting “*connection* setup information” (emphasis added). Rather, *Ishii* teaches “a system management apparatus ... capable of automatically managing *device* information”. (emphasis added) (*Ishii* at p. 1, ¶ 4). More specifically, the *Ishii* system management apparatus “collects device data of each of the managed devices ... including device numbers (serial numbers) of computers ... as well as device numbers of peripheral devices (printers) ... [and] arranges the collected device data by using employee numbers” (*Ishii* at p. 5, ¶ 52). This does not constitute a teaching of detecting “connection setup information” as recited by claim 1.

Ishii also does not teach storing the setup information on a “*locally installed* storage medium” (emphasis added). Rather, *Ishii* teaches “the managed program ... acquires device data stored in the hard disk drive ... transmits a system scanning response including the acquired device data to the management apparatus ... *via the communication network*” (emphasis added) (*Ishii* at p. 5, ¶ 59). Even assuming the “device data” in *Ishii* corresponds to the “connection setup information” recited by claim 1, the “management apparatus” of *Ishii* does not store the “device data” on a locally installed storage device. Rather, *Ishii*’s “management apparatus” is connected “via the communication network” to the devices being managed. This does not constitute a teaching of storing setup information on a “locally installed storage medium” as recited by claim 1.

Because neither *Cagle* nor *Ishii*, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every element recited by claim 1, no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established with respect to this claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cagle* in view of *Ishii*.

Amended claims 2, 3, and 8 depend from claim 1. At least because *Cagle* and *Ishii*, taken alone or in combination, do not support the rejection of claim 1, the references do not support the rejection of dependent claims 2, 3, and 8. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 2, 3, and 8 as being anticipated by *Cagle* in view of *Ishii*.

Although of different scope, amended claims 4, 5, and 9 recite features similar to those of claim 1. Neither *Cagle* nor *Ishii*, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests every element of these claims, for at least the reasons discussed above. Therefore, no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established with respect to these claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 5, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cagle* in view of *Ishii*.

Amended claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 5. At least because *Cagle* and *Ishii*, taken alone or in combination, do not support the rejection of claim 5, the references do not support the rejection of dependent claims 6 and 7. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 6 and 7 as being anticipated by *Cagle* in view of *Ishii*.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-9 in condition for allowance. This Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejections. Pending claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants request a favorable action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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